

Park Board Minutes
February 17, 2015

Members Present: Jamie Whiteis, Larry Wilson, Julie Wolfe, Candy Sullinger, Wes Stoner, Gabe Miller, and Bob Simmons

Members Absent: Mica Farley

Staff Present: Cindy Shook and Marsha Fulton

The meeting was called to order. Jamie Whiteis made a motion to approve the Park Board minutes from January 20, 2015. Wes Stoner seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Business:

1. The first item on the agenda was the review of ADA park improvements. Cindy remind the board about the 2011 survey she had commissioned and how it had provided details as to the ADA issues that exist in the parks. Cindy handed out a list of the departments goals in 2015, reviewing each project and explaining that every year we try to address issues on the list. In addition, Cindy shared that Alicia Keeter was currently working on a grant for picnic tables and benches that are made from recycled tires. Candy inquired about a recent story she had seen in the news relating concerns about recycled tires used on playgrounds. Cindy explained that those news items had been about the rubber mulch that is sometime placed in playground and the synthetic turf that is popular on athletic fields. Jaime inquired about adding an ADA picnic table at the campground and Cindy responded that was a good idea. She added there is a site behind the office that has easier access and a pathway to the restroom that is used for ADA requests and an ADA picnic table would be great to place on that site. Cindy reviewed some of the previous years' ADA accomplishments at Stockstill Park, including repaving of the walking path, adding van accessible parking spots, adding an ADA drinking fountain and eight new ADA playground components. Cindy went on to explain that her priority was to have a stable, slip resistant path to all benches and play features. Candy asked if there was a time frame to complete the list. Cindy explained that there was not, but having the study completed, working on an improvement plan, and showing progress on a yearly basis would be received well with the government agencies involved in ADA. Candy thanked Cindy for the update.

2. The next item on the agenda was the upcoming Missouri Parks & Recreation Association Conference in Springfield February 24-27. Cindy explained that she, Jason, Alicia, Brandon, and Holly were all members of the association and would be attending the upcoming conference next week. Cindy stated the conference was always a good experience in that it offers a chance for education and networking. Additionally, this year when she renewed the membership, she signed up under the Public Agency to allow the Park Board to become members in order to receive the quarterly publications. This will allow the board to learn more about what is happening around the state.

3. The next item on the agenda was the review of the 2015 Activity Guide. After confirming that all the park board members had received the guide in the mail over the weekend, Cindy stated that it was always exciting to get the new guide out and she encouraged everyone to look through it and share their thoughts.

4. The next agenda item was a review of new programs for 2015. Julie stated she was excited to see the evening swim lessons being offered and thought they might want to consider moving one of

the water aerobics classes to the evening to accommodate the working women. Cindy reviewed the list of new programs, which includes new formats for some existing programs. Cindy added that they are also planning to host an open house at the Owens homestead at Lakeside Forest this fall and invite craftsmen such as wood carvers and rope makers to set up exhibits. Wes asked if she had thought about doing something with botany, like seminars or hikes. Cindy stated that was definitely a possibility and she would keep it in mind. Larry asked if there was anything that could be done so that the hotels could be more aware of the local hiking paths. Cindy explained that there were multiple websites, including the Parks site that had information on it. Bob asked if it was something the Hotel Association could help with and Wes responded that he is a member and would possibly follow up.

5. The next item on the agenda was the Park Board update at the March 24th Board of Alderman Meeting. Candy asked if Gabe had agreed to be the spokesperson. Cindy confirmed that he had, and stated that she had recently had the opportunity to see both the Tree Board and the Planning and Zoning Board's presentations to the Board of Aldermen. Based on those presentation, Cindy stated that she had created a power point presentation, which she passed around, for the board's review and input. Bob suggested that we add information about some of the successful special events that we offer and Cindy agreed. Gabe interjected that he was glad to see the rehabilitation work going on at Alexander Park and stated that it would be difficult to ask for additional parks when some are not being used to their potential. Cindy agreed, but added that while Alexander Park was not being used as much for league games as it has in the past, it did provide a valuable resource to the community for practices and pick-up games, citing a lack of ball fields in our area as the problem. Bob agreed and added that Alexander had the opportunity, because of its location, to be a real show place. Candy asked how long the presentation should be and Cindy responded not more than 10-15 minutes. Cindy then handed the board a copy of the department's wish list and explained that the idea for the list had come from Bob, and she asked for them all to look over the list and if they had any additions to please let her know. Julie asked about spray grounds and Cindy explained that the spray ground was a water feature that could be added to a park or any area, adding that she would love to see one as part of the downtown project. Bob reported that he had recently toured some linear parks in Austin and they had five different kinds of spray grounds. Cindy expressed her gratitude to Bob Simmons for always communicating and representing the Park Board to City Council. Bob thanked Cindy and added that he feels that the Mayor is trying to develop closer relations with the various boards and he could see these presentations becoming an annual thing.

6. The next item on the agenda was a Parks and Recreation Update. With no comments the board moved on to member's reports.

Member's Reports

1. Gabe asked is the activity guide would be online and Cindy confirmed that it was.
2. Wes shared that his hotel was busy booking rooms for the 2015 tournaments that will be played in Branson, and added that he believes that the RecPlex is the second leading business in group bookings for their company.

Julie Wolfe made a motion to adjourn. Wes Stoner seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned 6:25pm